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United Nations Disarmament Information Programme

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the activities of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme carried out by the Office for Disarmament Affairs in the priority areas of weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons, in particular small arms and light weapons. The Programme will continue to publish print and electronic versions of the two-part *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, available on its website. The disarmament website (www.un.org/disarmament) has grown exponentially in content and is being used more and more by Member States, conference participants, non-governmental organizations and the general public alike to access daily updates of documents and statements, including video messages. Websites for specific meetings and conferences are being further developed. The Office will continue to facilitate the participation of civil society organizations in disarmament-related meetings and conferences and collaborate closely with coalitions of non-governmental organizations that spearhead such participation. The present report also gives details of the many contributions of the Department of Public Information to the dissemination of information on disarmament.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 67/67, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report covering both the implementation of the activities of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme by the United Nations system during the previous two years and the activities of the Programme contemplated for the following two years. The Programme is administered by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, in close collaboration with the Department of Public Information, in particular on information campaigns focused on major disarmament-related events and conferences.

2. The objectives of the Disarmament Information Programme reflect the overall orientation of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, guided by the priorities of Member States as enunciated in the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly.

3. In accordance with the report of the Secretary-General (A/65/159), the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs has continued her advocacy of disarmament and non-proliferation issues with Member States and civil society and continued to increase her interaction with the media, think-tank organizations, academia and civil society organizations that play a vital role in building and activating public opinion in respect of disarmament and non-proliferation efforts.

4. In the area of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, especially nuclear weapons, priority was accorded to the second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Geneva, 22 April-3 May 2013 and New York, 28 April-9 May 2014), and the eighth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (New York, 27 September 2013), convened pursuant to article XIV of the Treaty, entailing an increased demand for information by the diplomatic community, other international and civil society organizations, the media and the general public.

5. In the field of conventional weapons, priority was accorded to the sessions of the Final United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty (New York, 18-28 March 2013) and the fifth biennial meeting of States to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (New York, 16-20 June 2014). Again, the Office for Disarmament Affairs was required to mobilize resources to meet the demand for information from various sectors.

6. The importance of the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs continues to grow, as evidenced by significantly increased traffic and time spent by visitors on the site. Dedicated websites were designed for major disarmament-related conferences, including the second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference and the Final United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty.

7. In paragraph 2 of its resolution 67/47, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report reviewing the results of the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education (A/57/124) and to submit it to the Assembly at its

sixty-ninth session (A/69/113). That report should be read in conjunction with the present one.

8. In a series of resolutions adopted at its sixty-seventh and sixty-eighth sessions, the General Assembly reaffirmed the usefulness of the Office's three regional centres for peace and disarmament — in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean — in carrying out dissemination and educational programmes. Separate reports to the General Assembly on the three regional centres[1] provide detailed information about their activities.

9. The United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services programme continues to be the Office's largest annual training programme. A separate report on its activities over the past two years has been submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session (A/69/168).

10. In accordance with the standing request, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research continues to report to the Assembly on the activities of the Institute on a yearly basis. Accounts of the information and education activities of the Institute for the past two years are contained in separate reports (A/68/182 and A/69/176).

11. Funding for the Disarmament Information Programme continues to be derived from the regular budget and from extrabudgetary resources, in particular from the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Programme. The status of the Fund as at 31 December 2013 is contained in the annex to the present report. The Trust Fund continued to benefit from the generosity of Member States and private donors. The Office for Disarmament Affairs is grateful for the donations and support it has received from States and private donors, as listed in the annex to the present report.

II. Information resources

A. Publication programme

12. The *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook* remains the flagship publication of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. The English version of the *Yearbook* is issued in a print run of 500 copies (a reduction from the print run of over 4,000 in 2010, in line with the change plan and the "Greening the United Nations" initiative). In addition, the United Nations bookshops sell several hundred copies of each edition to subscribers and non-subscribers. An additional copy is distributed to each delegation participating in the work of the First Committee and the Conference on Disarmament. The *Yearbook* is also produced in electronic format easily accessible on the Office website. The e-Yearbook is produced in PDF format and features full-text search and navigation mechanisms. Electronic versions of the *Yearbook* have been available since 2002.

[1] Reports of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (A/68/134), the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (A/68/112), and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (A/68/114) were submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session. The three reports of the Secretary-General on the respective regional centres have been submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session (A/69/136, A/69/127 and A/69/133).

13. The Occasional Papers series was developed to give wider dissemination to the expert inputs from individuals, panels and seminars sponsored by the Office for Disarmament Affairs and is disseminated free of charge and posted on the Office website. The following have been issued in the period under review:

- Occasional Paper No. 22, December 2012, entitled *Options for the Further Strengthening of the NPT's Review Process by 2015*.[2] Parties participating in the 2010 Review Conference decided to defer its consideration of further strengthening of the review process of the Treaty to the next review cycle. This paper examines the various proposals that have been put forward and that could incrementally improve accountability and efficiency and provide greater continuity and substantial savings.

- Occasional Paper No. 23, March 2013, entitled *The Impact of Poorly Regulated Arms Transfers on the Work of the United Nations*.[3] The paper aims to develop a coherent approach to support the efforts of the international community to improve the regulation of international transfers of conventional arms. It records the advocacy of the Organization over the past years of a robust and comprehensive Arms Trade Treaty that covers the full array of conventional weapons and ammunition, and it includes provisions that arms not be transferred where there is a clear risk that they will be used to commit violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law or seriously undermine development.

- Occasional Paper No. 24, December 2013, entitled *Contrasting Perspectives on Tactical Nuclear Weapons in Europe: Understanding the Current Debates*.[4] The paper presents an overview of a number of relevant discussion points that need to be addressed in the complex picture of tactical nuclear weapons disarmament. These include the theoretical and practical arguments for tactical nuclear weapons disarmament and the underpinning political and military logic.

- Occasional Paper No. 25, December 2013, entitled *The Gun-Free Zone — A Tool to Prevent and Reduce Armed Violence*.[5] In an attempt to prevent and reduce armed violence, a number of national and regional Governments and local communities have established gun-free zones. It aims to bring together information and experiences from practitioners and policymakers and analyse the impact of gun-free zones in order to determine when and where gun-free zones can be a valuable measure to prevent and reduce armed violence.

14. The Office for Disarmament Affairs has continued to produce what was previously a quarterly e-publication (Office for Disarmament Affairs Update), which highlights recent events and activities of the Office and other disarmament forums providing links to fuller material and documents available on the Office and related websites. The individual articles in the Update are now published on the website when they become available, closer to real-time, but are still also collated in a quarterly mode.

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[2] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.13.IX.3.
[3] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.13.IX.5.
[4] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.14.IX.4.
[5] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.14.IX.6.

15. The Office for Disarmament Affairs has continued to publish its series *Civil Society and Disarmament*. In November 2012, it published *Applying a Disarmament Lens to Gender, Human Rights, Development, Security, Education and Communication: Six Essays*. This publication features six essays on disarmament topics by civil society actors.

16. A second edition in this *Civil Society* series was published in December 2013, entitled *NGO Presentations to the Open-Ended Working Group on Taking Forward Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament Negotiations*.[6] This publication contains the statements by representatives of non-governmental organizations that were delivered in May 2013 during the informal thematic discussions at the meeting, held in Geneva, of the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.

17. The Office for Disarmament Affairs continued to publish its study series, a non-sales publication produced in small quantities, which highlights studies undertaken by groups of governmental experts. In December 2013, study series No. 34, entitled *Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities*,[7] was published. This publication contains the study on outer space transparency and confidence-building measures conducted by the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities, which held sessions in 2012 and 2013. Additional material related to the publication of the report is also included, such as General Assembly resolutions, views of Member States and expert papers. The study is available in print in English and electronically.

18. The publication *Disarmament: A Basic Guide*,[8] first published only in English, aims to inform, educate and generate public support for and understanding of the importance of multilateral action in the field of arms limitation and disarmament. It was translated into the other five languages of the United Nations and was e-published in October 2013. The Office has been seeking partners to translate the Guide into as many languages as possible and to date has a commitment from the University of Tokyo to produce a version in Japanese. Other offers to translate the booklet in languages other than the official languages would be welcome.

19. In June 2013, a new report *Programmes Financed from Voluntary Contributions* was published and widely disseminated. This report illustrates how the Office for Disarmament Affairs has been able to achieve concrete results through partnerships with its donors, and how essential such support is in attaining important disarmament goals. An updated edition is being prepared.

20. A new feature on the Office for Disarmament Affairs website is a series of short two-page fact sheets on various topics for which the Office is responsible. There are some 36 of these concise fact sheets, which are updated on a quarterly basis.

21. In April 2014, in conjunction with the Department of Public Information, the Office for Disarmament Affairs published a new book, *Action for Disarmament:*

[6] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.14.IX.5.
[7] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.14.IX.3.
[8] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.12.IX.4.

10 Things You Can Do!.[9] It shows youth actionable steps they can take to personally lead the call for disarmament. The book presents a variety of resources for the reader to learn about history and modern uses of weapons: guns, bombs, nuclear and biological weapons. The reader is encouraged to use that knowledge to foster a dialogue with peers, the media and politicians. Suggestions are given for points of discussion, as well as methods to tailor them to be concise and have impact. The action-driven format of the book makes it both an excellent primer on disarmament and on civic engagement.

22. While printed materials are still an important medium of communication, as access to the Internet and electronic media increases across the globe, the Office for Disarmament Affairs is making all of its publications available in electronic and downloadable formats. Back volumes of the *Disarmament Yearbook* were made available as scanned PDF files in July 2013. In addition, the publications section of the website was redesigned in October 2013. The new and improved website features: a slide show of new and noteworthy publications; a dedicated search function that looks through the publications section of the website, including the office for disarmament affairs Documents Library, the Office for Disarmament Affairs Update and the fact sheets; and more appealing web pages for each publication, with an overview of the publication content and links to the downloadable PDFs in all available languages.

B. Website

23. The Office for Disarmament Affairs continues to maintain and improve both the substantive content and technical delivery of its website with the goal of reaching a broader audience that includes both the general public and specialists in the fields of disarmament and non-proliferation.

24. The overall design of the website remains oriented towards specific issues that represent the Office priorities. Its front page is regularly updated with recent news of interest to the disarmament community and with educational features that explain disarmament issues in layperson's terms to the general public. Links are provided to pages archiving disarmament-related United Nations press releases; statements by the Secretary-General and other senior officials, including the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs; publications, information on current and upcoming events in the field of disarmament and relevant background documentation. Documentation relating to these conferences that exists in all the official languages is posted on the website. A new feature on the home page is the "Spotlight", which gives users of the website up-to-date information about events, conferences, speeches and other activities. It is updated regularly.

25. The Office for Disarmament Affairs continuously monitors the performance of its website. Statistics on the number of page views and visitors, traffic patterns and search query terms are recorded in real time. Regular monitoring provides data on the information being sought by the visitors to and users of the site.

26. The Office website traffic continued to grow as the traffic and time spent by visitors on the site increased significantly. There was an increase of more than 57 per cent in the number of new visitors to the website. The number of visits to the

[9] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.13.IX.6.

site more than doubled since the previous year, averaging more than 64,000 visits per month. Page views doubled, from 60,000 to 80,000 monthly in 2012, to 90,000 to 200,000 monthly in 2013. The greatest traffic to the website was at the time of the publication of the interim report into allegations of the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, when it reached 30,000 page views in one single day.

27. During 2013, three new websites were created for the United Nations SaferGuard project (a toolkit to support the implementation of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines), the Arms Trade Treaty and the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference. The top users of the website, measured by time spent, are Government agencies (mainly ministries for foreign affairs), educational institutions and non-governmental organizations. In addition to the front page, the two most visited sections of the site are the pages reflecting efforts to establish an Arms Trade Treaty and those related to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

28. A major objective of the Office for Disarmament Affairs is to have the home page content of its website and all second-tier pages available in all the official languages, a major challenge given the lack of financial resources. Only when documentation exists in all the official languages is the Office able to post it quickly and easily.

C. Exhibitions

29. Exhibitions play an important role in promoting advocacy and providing information on a conference or other topics through the promotion of governmental and non-governmental positions. However, work involving the renovation of United Nations Headquarters (the capital master plan) has meant that the permanent disarmament exhibit at Headquarters has been temporarily dismantled. A limited number of artefacts and posters have been retained and moved to a new location in the Conference Building and a large display on military expenditure is now housed in the temporary visitors centre. The latter, which shows the relative size of global military expenditure versus spending on development (see http://www.un.org/disarmament/over-armed), was launched in late 2012 and was originally housed in the visitors lobby of Headquarters. Discussions with the Department of Public Information are ongoing about the installation of a new disarmament exhibit in the renovated General Assembly building.

D. Events

30. In the period under review there was significant media and civil society attention to a number of events requiring information and outreach support in New York, such as the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, the observances of the International Day against Nuclear Tests, the Final United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, the Arms Trade Treaty signing ceremony, and the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament.

31. As part of its outreach efforts, the Office for Disarmament Affairs has also continued to organize and host a range of meetings, seminars and events. Following are some examples:

- The sixty-seventh anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima, on 6 August 2012, was marked by the launch of a new website (www.hiroshima-nagasaki.com), which makes available new testimonies of atomic bomb survivors living in the Americas. The new website is a collaboration between the Office for Disarmament Affairs and Japanese artist and director Shinpei Takeda, who has travelled the Americas and collected more than 60 interviews with survivors who emigrated there from Japan in the years following the atomic bombings of Hiroshima or Nagasaki.

- On 23 October 2012, at an award ceremony, the Secretary-General congratulated the 12 young artists who won the Art for Peace Contest 2012, which asked participants to depict their vision of a world free of nuclear weapons. More than 6,600 young people from 92 countries took part in the contest, which was administered online and judged by a panel of 140 jurors, mainly art and education specialists, who evaluated each work of art based on its creativity, composition, theme and technique.

- The scholar and author, Ward Wilson, came to the United Nations on 20 February 2013, to launch his new book, *Five Myths about Nuclear Weapons*, and lay out his arguments to an audience of diplomats, United Nations staff, scholars and representatives of NGOs that nuclear weapons are costly and dangerous, and as weapons, they serve practically no purpose.

- On 9 April 2013, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, in cooperation with the Global Action to Prevent War, launched the publication, *Applying a Disarmament Lens to Gender, Human Rights, Development, Security, Education and Communication: Six Essays*, with a panel discussion at the United Nations.

- The Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute North America, with the sponsorship of the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, presented a lunch-time panel discussion on the theme "Military expenditures: trends and challenges" on 15 April 2013. The panel discussion explored how regional political developments are reflected in countries' military spending and budget priorities, and the implications of these trends.

- On 8 May 2013, two atomic bomb survivors from Hiroshima met with United Nations tour guides and interns in New York to share their testimonies of the horrors they experienced in Japan in August 1945. The meeting provided a rare opportunity for the participants to hear first-hand accounts on the humanitarian impact of the use of nuclear weapons. This initiative was part of the commitment of the Secretary-General to help preserve and disseminate the testimonies of the survivors to ensure that their stories are available for generations to come.

- In association with the World Future Council and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Office for Disarmament Affairs organized an event on 23 October to announce the winners of the Future Policy Award 2013, for disarmament policies that contribute most effectively to the achievement of peace,

sustainable development and security. A gala event was held at United Nations Headquarters to honour the winners: the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (1967); the Argentine National Programme for the Voluntary Surrender of Firearms (2006); and the New Zealand Nuclear-Free Zone, Disarmament, and Arms Control Act (1987).

- On 15 April 2014, the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Department of Public Information held an event to launch a new book, *Action for Disarmament: 10 Things You Can Do!*. Written for high school and early college students, it offers practical steps to help young people mobilize, act and promote the United Nations disarmament ideals throughout their schools, communities and beyond. To ensure the widest possible dissemination of the publication, the University of Tokyo and the Hope to the Future Foundation in the Republic of Korea have agreed to translate the book into Japanese and Korean, respectively.
- More information on these and many other events held in the period under review is available as part of the Office for Disarmament Affairs Update series at http://www.un.org/disarmament/HomePage/ODAPublications/.

E. Media

32. Throughout the reporting period, the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and her staff participated in interviews with television, radio and print outlets. In 2013 media interest in disarmament was particularly focussed on the investigation of the Secretary-General into the alleged use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic and its decision to join the Chemical Weapons Convention and the subsequent work of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)-United Nations Joint Mission overseeing the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme.

F. Education

33. In November in both 2012 and 2013, the non-governmental organization (NGO) Hibakusha Stories, in collaboration with the Office for Disarmament Affairs and Peace Boat, organized at United Nations Headquarters a workshop on nuclear disarmament for teachers at New York City public schools. The educators participated in the workshop as part of their continuing education activities on Staff Development Day. Teachers specializing in social studies, global studies, government and history from a number of New York City high schools participated. The workshops included a substantive session that explored the subjects of nuclear disarmament and the role of the United Nations, the dawn of the nuclear age and the Manhattan Project, and the human dimensions of the Second World War and the atomic bombings of Japan.

III. Information activities

A. Conferences, panel discussions and other information activities

34. With support from the Government of Japan and the host city Shinzuoka, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, through its Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, organized the twenty-fourth United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues in Shinzuoka, Japan, from 30 January to 1 February 2013. The Conference, with the overall theme "Creating a peaceful and safe future: pressing issues and potential solutions", addressed a number of important issues, including humanitarian dimensions of nuclear weapons, nuclear-weapon-free zones, current situations and challenges to the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, nuclear safety and security, small arms and light weapons control, the role of civil society in promoting disarmament, and disarmament and non-proliferation education. Representatives of States, local governments, the United Nations and other inter-governmental organizations, academic institutions, NGOs and other civil society organizations, the media, high school and university students attended the Conference.

35. The Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, in cooperation with the Republic of Korea, has continued the Jeju Process by organizing two more Republic of Korea-United Nations Joint Conferences on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea. These conferences are well known for providing an informal setting for frank and open discussions of current critical issues of disarmament, arms control, non-proliferation and security by bringing together stakeholders from different sectors of the disarmament and non-proliferation community, including government, intergovernmental organizations, academia and civil society.

36. The eleventh Joint Conference was held in December 2012 on the theme "Disarmament and arms trade control in Asia and beyond: conventional weapons and missiles". Discussions centred on international conventions with a focus on the Arms Trade Treaty; missile issues and control regimes; illicit trade: illicit brokering; proliferation financing; and cases of conventional weapons disarmament and their implications. The twelfth Joint Conference was held in November 2013, on the theme "Non-proliferation regime in the twenty-first century: challenges and the way forward", which focused on a range of non-proliferation issues, with a special emphasis on Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

37. The 2012 and 2013 sessions of the First Committee of the General Assembly attracted an unusually large number of side events organized separately and jointly by permanent missions to the United Nations, NGOs, think tanks, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and the Office for Disarmament Affairs. Additional information on many of these events is available on the Office for Disarmament Affairs website.

B. Briefings

38. At the request of the Public Inquiries Unit of the DPI and in response to requests received directly from individual institutions, staff members of the Office for Disarmament Affairs undertook briefing engagements, an average of 40 per year

during the reporting period. These focused on education and training activities involving some 3,600 participants, including: (a) student visitors within the framework of university programmes dealing with the United Nations; (b) United Nations Association members from various countries; (c) foreign ministry trainees; (d) students preparing for the model United Nations exercises; and (e) visiting members of NGOs.

39. Staff members also participated in numerous panels and events on arms control, disarmament and security issues organized by research or university-related institutes or think tanks.

C. Activities of the Secretary-General's Messenger of Peace on disarmament

40. The Department of Public Information is the lead office for supporting the activities of the Messengers of Peace, in cooperation with the relevant substantive offices, including the Office for Disarmament Affairs. During the period under review, Michael Douglas, whose special area of focus as Messenger of Peace is disarmament, made a number of contributions to supporting disarmament efforts.

41. Mr. Douglas helped organize the filming of, and the celebrity participation for, a public service announcement for the DPI released in June 2013, calling on world leaders to reduce nuclear weapon stockpiles. The public service announcement was produced for an awareness campaign initiated by Global Zero, a non-profit organization that advocates for the elimination of all nuclear weapons by 2030.

42. Mr. Douglas was recognized for his efforts by being given the 2013 Global Citizen of the Year Award by the United Nations Correspondents Association at a gala dinner in New York on 18 December 2013. On 14 January 2014, Mr. Douglas was given the Danny Kaye Humanitarian Peace Award from the United States Fund for UNICEF. The Danny Kaye Humanitarian Award is given annually to an entertainment industry individual in recognition of his or her visionary and transformative advocacy on behalf of children and women worldwide.

43. In April 2014, Mr. Douglas participated and spoke at the book launch of *Action for Disarmament: 10 Things You Can Do!* — a book to encourage youth to become involved in disarmament. Mr. Douglas implored an auditorium that included local New York high school and university students to speak out in favour of disarmament and peace. Mr. Douglas joined the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs to encourage students to find their voice with help from the book. "These young people are going to be part of our governments before we know it," noted Mr. Douglas. He also told the audience, "You guys hold an enormous power. You have a power to make changes. And to make this world a better place to live in." While at Headquarters for the book-launch event, he taped two short sequences to help promote the sale of the book and two messages in support of the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty and for the June 2014 Third Review Conference of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

IV. Cooperation with civil society, especially non-governmental organizations

44. The Office for Disarmament Affairs continues to facilitate NGO participation (accreditation and registration) at various disarmament-related conferences, and to coordinate NGO side events and exhibits, as well as their presentations, in various disarmament meetings. The Office also provides sponsorship to enable NGOs to hold events during the First Committee session and promotes NGO activities on the Office website. The Office holds frequent meetings with representatives of NGOs at the level of the High Representative and at the working level to discuss their programmes and examine ways to collaborate.

45. For the purpose of coordinating participation in major conferences, the Office for Disarmament Affairs continues to maintain close contact with two major NGO coalitions, Reaching Critical Will in the nuclear field and the International Action Network on Small Arms in connection with small arms and light weapons.

46. A total of 362 representatives from 53 NGOs participated in the 2013 second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference in 2013, with slightly increased numbers of NGOs participating in the third session in 2014. A total of 578 representatives from 77 NGOs participated in the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty held in 2012 and a similar number of NGOs participated in the Final United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty in 2013. In the area of small arms, 186 representatives from 30 NGOs participated in the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in August/September 2012. Some 247 representatives from 47 NGOs registered for the fifth biennial meeting of States to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in June 2014. A new system of online advance registration for NGOs for meetings is now available and has facilitated registration for participants.

V. Activities of the Department of Public Information

47. The Department of Public Information continued to make sustained and comprehensive efforts to help raise public awareness and understanding of the objectives and the work of the United Nations in the area of disarmament, arms control, non-proliferation and related fields, including by promoting and covering the Organization's conferences, meetings, events and observances.

A. Internet, press coverage, television and radio

48. During the reporting period, the DPI continued to focus on disarmament as one of its priority issues in its multilingual radio, television, print, online and photo outlets. The United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty (2-27 July 2012) and the Final United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty (18-28 March 2013) were widely covered by the entire team of United Nations Television, United Nations Webcast, United Nations Radio and the United Nations News Centre. In the

lead-up to the March 2013 conference, an op-ed piece by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs was placed in the Huffington Post.

49. The high-level General Assembly plenary meeting on nuclear disarmament (September 2013), the work of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference, the work of the Conference on Disarmament and Disarmament Commission sessions were also widely covered by United Nations Television, United Nations Webcast, United Nations Radio and the United Nations News Centre.

50. The Department's Web Services Section created a web page for the nuclear disarmament high-level plenary meeting, available in all six official United Nations languages (http://www.un.org/en/ga/68/meetings/nucleardisarmament/), and continued to maintain the website of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) in all six official languages, in partnership with the Committee. During the reporting period, a total of about 2,100 website updates were implemented in all six official languages.

51. United Nations Radio carried out interviews with disarmament officials across the full spectrum of disarmament-related issues and ran stories on the First Committee meetings, the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference, Disarmament Commission meetings and the annual observances of the International Day against Nuclear Tests and the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

52. During the reporting period, the United Nations News Centre posted more than 350 stories on disarmament-related issues and carried out a Newsmaker interview with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, which was featured online in January 2014. Several interviews were carried out in connection with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)-United Nations Joint Mission for the elimination of the chemical weapons programme of the Syrian Arab Republic, including with the Special Coordinator of the Joint Mission.

53. United Nations Television produced or co-produced a number of related pieces, such as a public service announcement on small weapons for the Office for Disarmament Affairs, a television feature on Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), a Secretary-General video message celebrating the 10-year anniversary of resolution 1540 (2004), and a television feature on Robinson Crusoe island in Chile on reconstructing a nuclear testing monitoring station destroyed after a tsunami.

54. More than 80 news stories on disarmament and non-proliferation, ranging from updates on the Syrian Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran to a feature from South Sudan on small arms tracking, were prepared and distributed to global broadcasters through UNifeed. United Nations Web television provided live coverage of the high-level meetings and uploaded 110 videos, which were then embedded in United Nations News Centre and United Nations Radio stories.

55. United Nations Photo covered the full range of meetings and events at Headquarters, with more than 321 photos on United Nations activities on disarmament and non-proliferation accessioned, captioned and posted on the United Nations website. In addition, the Multimedia Resources Unit of the Department of Public Information continued to maintain an ongoing spotlight gallery — "Disarmament and the UN" — highlighting selected photos from its collection. Furthermore, some 106 audio records of material related to disarmament and non-proliferation have

been processed from Headquarters and the field, in a number of languages. In terms of research, the Unit has carried out at least two major requests related to disarmament, one on weapons of mass destruction and the other on victims of terrorism, as well as smaller research requests related to disarmament for internal and external projects.

56. The Department of Public Information also provided close coverage of open intergovernmental meetings, press conferences and major statements through its Meetings Coverage Section. During the reporting period, the Section issued more than 290 press releases relating to disarmament in English and French, including more than 120 detailed, real-time summaries of intergovernmental meetings and some 91 relevant statements by the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General.

57. With the use of social media platforms, the Department's information and news products related to disarmament were disseminated in the six official languages and a number of local languages, including through Twitter, Facebook, Flickr, YouTube and Weibo.

B. Public affairs, civil society and non-governmental organizations

58. During the reporting period, the Department of Public Information continued its regular interaction with the representatives of NGOs associated with it. In 2013, at the request of the Department, a number of the associated NGOs submitted reviews of their activities in the area of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation. Among the activities highlighted in those reviews were numerous educational programmes around non-violence issues, promotional and advocacy activities in support of the Arms Trade Treaty and extensive public information campaigns on other disarmament-related matters.

59. The NGO Relations and Advocacy Section of the Department of Public Information also promoted the launch of the book *Action for Disarmament: 10 Things You Can Do!* through its multilingual dissemination channels, including social media platforms. Social media efforts resulted in 11 tweets and 22 retweets, with an estimated reach to 57,387 Twitter accounts.

60. The Visitors Services Section of the Department of Public Information continued to disseminate information on disarmament and non-proliferation in a wide range of ways. Despite significant challenges regarding public access to United Nations Headquarters owing to the capital master plan renovations, more than 300,000 visitors visited the site between August 2012 and July 2014, participated in a guided tour and were sensitized about the work of the United Nations on disarmament. As part of the visit, tour guides speak about conventional arms and weapons of mass destruction, the adoption and ratification of relevant treaties and conventions and arms control activities on the ground. Tour guides regularly receive specialized training, including briefings by United Nations experts and updates on military expenditures, the ratification status of relevant treaties and the work of the relevant bodies and offices involved in disarmament and non-proliferation.

61. The disarmament-related visual displays continued to be an important part of the tour route. Against the backdrop of a wall picture of former child soldiers walking away from guns or a mine action expert detecting landmines, guides talk to

visitors while pointing out showcases displaying several types and sizes of landmines, cluster munitions and the "Escopetarra", an AK-47 rifle converted by a Colombian musician into an electric guitar to spread a message of non-violence.

62. During the reporting period, disarmament matters were specifically featured in 25 public briefings organized by the Group Programmes Unit of the Department of Public Information. In addition, nuclear disarmament was the topic of the briefing for the participants in the 2013 Reham Al-Farra Memorial Journalists Fellowship Programme in September.

C. Printed materials

63. During the reporting period, United Nations work on disarmament and non-proliferation matters featured prominently in the *Yearbook of the United Nations*, the annual reference work published by the Department of Public Information on the activities and concerns of the Organization, as well as *Basic Facts about the United Nations 2014*, the latest edition of this popular handbook on the United Nations system. Related activities are featured in the multilingual smartphone app United Nations Calendar of Observances, as well as regularly illuminated from an historical perspective through the social media account @UNYearbook.

64. The DPI also actively promoted Office for Disarmament Affairs publications through various print media channels, including trade magazines such as *Foreign Affairs, Choice* and *Documents to the People*. The titles have been regularly featured in the digital media marketing outreach activities including e-Alerts, custom e-mail campaigns and social media postings on Facebook, Twitter and Google+. For the reporting period, the Sales and Marketing Section of the Department of Public Information sold approximately 800 copies of the Office for Disarmament Affairs titles.

D. Special observances

65. The DPI continued to collaborate with the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan in promoting and making arrangements for the annual observances of the International Day against Nuclear Tests (29 August), including on the logistics for the General Assembly informal meetings, which were convened by the Presidents of successive General Assembly sessions in 2013 and 2014 and organized in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan. Last year, an informal meeting was held at United Nations Headquarters on 5 September and included a high-level panel on the theme "The Path to Zero: the role of the United Nations in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation". The website for the Day was updated in all six official languages. Department of Public Information promotional activities also included a series of Twitter and Facebook messages in all six languages aimed at alerting followers to the Day and driving digital traffic to the website for the Day. Also, as part of the commemoration, the Department helped set up an art exhibit entitled "Peace Now: Abolish Nuclear Tests and Weapons", organized by the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan and designed to raise public awareness about the importance of a ban on nuclear weapons testing.

66. During the reporting period, the DPI also continued its cooperation with the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), the Office for Disarmament Affairs and other United Nations partners in promoting the annual observance of the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action (4 April) by promoting the objectives of the Day, providing coverage for UNMAS activities and disseminating relevant information through its communications and distribution channels, including social media platforms and the United Nations information centres network.

67. The Department of Public Information, working closely with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, started preparations for the first ever observance of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/32 dated 5 December 2013.

E. Elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme

68. The Department of Public Information was actively engaged in conceptualizing and planning for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-United Nations Joint Mission set up by the Security Council in September 2013 to oversee the elimination of the chemical weapons programme of the Syrian Arab Republic. Working closely with OPCW-United Nations Joint Mission, the Department developed and managed a dedicated website focusing on the activities of the Mission and implementation of its mandate (see http://opcw.unmissions.org). In addition, the DPI provided logistics and media support to the Special Coordinator of the OPCW-United Nations Joint Mission during her visits to United Nations Headquarters.

F. United Nations information centres, services and offices

69. The Department of Public Information's network of 63 United Nations information centres, services and offices continued to carry out disarmament public information activities through media outreach, including placement of op-ed pieces on disarmament and arms control-related matters, production and dissemination of information materials in local languages, and arranging for seminars, lectures, conferences and exhibitions. Below are some selected illustrations of the work done by Department of Public Information offices worldwide.

International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action

70. To commemorate the 2013 International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, the United Nations Office in Baku, jointly with envoys of the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action and the International Eurasia Press Fund, briefed schoolchildren and teachers in a village school in Tartar district — one of the deadliest areas in the country for mine victims — and organized a tree-planting event in Barda region. Some 200 students and civil society representatives were in attendance. The message of the Secretary-General for the Day was translated into Azerbaijani and widely disseminated.

71. The Benelux desk at the United Nations Regional Information Centre in Brussels took the initiative to have the UNMAS exhibit "UN Common Cause" displayed as part of a larger exhibition called "Landmines: Treacherous Weapons" in

the Royal Museum of the Armed Forces and of Military History. The exhibit, held from 29 March to 28 June 2013, was launched by Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid of Belgium and the Minister of Defence of Belgium and was widely covered by media. A colloquium entitled, "The Ottawa Convention: a first step towards humanitarian disarmament", was also organized. In addition, the United Nations Regional Information Centre coordinated the opening ceremony for the "Lend Your Leg" action with the NGO Handicap International. The Centre translated captions for the UNMAS exhibition and related information materials into Dutch and French; and drafted articles for the Centre website in English, French and Dutch. The exhibition was also promoted on social media tools.

72. A special media campaign was organized by the United Nations Information Centre in Bogotá, together with the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme and the Government's Office of the Vice-Chairman, including interviews with one of the most important television outlets — Caracol Televisión; the publication of press kits and a photo exhibition. The United Nations Information Service in Geneva, in cooperation with UNMAS, organized a round-table discussion on the theme "Actors in mine action: challenges and opportunities in today's world", which was followed by a press conference. The United Nations Information Centre in Lusaka sent out messages through short-message service to 4,000 mobile subscribers, as well as through its Twitter and Facebook accounts. The message of the Secretary-General for the Day was translated into Persian and widely disseminated to the media local partners by the United Nations Information Centre in Tehran.

International Day against Nuclear Tests

73. On the occasion of the International Day against Nuclear Tests, the Director of the United Nations Information Centre in Moscow delivered a statement at a round-table event, organized jointly with the Embassy of Kazakhstan in the Russian Federation and the Moscow-based newspaper *Argumenty i Fakty*. In attendance were deputies of the State Duma, experts from the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan, and journalists. The United Nations Information Centre in Windhoek organized a mini Model United Nations, with 30 students discussing the issue of nuclear testing. Several information centres translated the message of the Secretary-General on the Day into local languages, including Armenian, Bahasa Indonesia, Persian and Polish, disseminated it to the media and posted it on their websites.

Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Weapons

74. On the Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare (29 April), the Society for Chemical Weapons Victims Support and the Tehran Peace Museum, in cooperation with the United Nations Information Centre in Tehran, organized a ceremony at the museum in 2013. The programme ended with the planting of an olive tree at Park-e Shahr in commemoration of the Day.

United Nations Disarmament Week

75. During United Nations Disarmament Week in October 2013, the Director of the United Nations Information Centre in Beirut published an article in the pan-Arab daily newspaper *Al-Hayat* on some milestones in the United Nations history of pursuing disarmament, and outlined some of its mechanisms and achievements. The elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme and the high-level General

Assembly meeting on nuclear disarmament were among several breakthroughs cited in the article. The United Nations Information Centre Director was also interviewed by MTV Lebanon, Sky News and Radio Voice of Lebanon.

76. The United Nations Information Centre in Ouagadougou, in partnership with the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Burkina Faso, organized a conference to encourage and promote disarmament in Africa. The meeting was opened by the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Defence and the Director of the Centre for Democratic Governance, based in Ouagadougou. About 250 people attended, including government officials, members of the armed forces, diplomats, members of the civil society, researchers and media representatives.

Other activities

77. In addition to the special observances referred to above, United Nations information centres continued to raise awareness of disarmament issues at their events and in their initiatives. For example, on the occasion of the Final United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, held in New York in March 2013, the United Nations Information Centre in Tehran translated into Persian the full text of the Arms Trade Treaty and a series of Office for Disarmament Affairs fact sheets and made them available on its website. It also prepared a press release in English and Persian and dispatched it to Iranian media. It was picked up by major news agencies such as the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) and Moj News. The United Nations Information Centre in Warsaw translated the statement of the Secretary-General at the Arms Trade Treaty Conference for media distribution and its website and Facebook pages.

78. In November 2012, the United Nations Information Service in Geneva held the eighth session in a series of joint NGO briefings organized together with the United Nations Office at Geneva and the NGO Liaison Service. The briefing, attended by some 30 NGO representatives, focused on the theme "Key issues in the current disarmament debate" and heard presentations by the Director of UNMAS and other experts who briefed on the state of play in the Conference on Disarmament and the Biological Weapons Convention. The session was preceded by the screening of the film *The Colors of the Mountain* by Colombian director Carlos César Arbeláez, which depicts the conflict in Colombia and the impact of landmines on the life of a child. The screening was organized with the support of the Filmar Latin American Film Festival.

79. From August through September 2012, a number of United Nations information centres, services and offices, including in Ankara, Jakarta, Manila, Panama City and Tehran, translated into local languages and placed the Secretary General's op-ed article "The World is Over-armed and Peace is Under-funded" in newspapers and magazines.

80. In March 2013, the United Nations Information Centre in Manama co-organized a photo exhibition on nuclear non-proliferation entitled, "From a culture of violence to a culture of peace: toward a world free from nuclear weapons". The exhibit was organized with the Bahrain Centre for Strategic, International and Energy Studies, Soka Gakkai International, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons and Inter Press Service. The goal of the exhibition was to highlight issues of nuclear weapons through the lens of human security, while placing the work of their abolition at the heart of building a culture

of peace. Since the exhibition was launched in 2007, it has been shown in more than 230 venues in 29 countries and territories.

81. In May 2013, United Nations Information Centre Jakarta translated and published in Bahasa Indonesia fact sheets on disarmament issues prepared by the Office for Disarmament Affairs, and produced a short video on mine awareness and disarmament. That material was used at a seminar on disarmament and arms trade organized in partnership with Bina Nusantara University. The United Nations Information Centre Director addressed participants, along with the Director of International Treaties and Security of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia. The seminar was attended by about 80 university students from universities around Jakarta.

82. In May 2013, the United Nations Office in Tashkent co-organized two Model United Nations Conferences. The first Model United Nations Conference was hosted by Westminster International University, and discussed, among other issues, "Fostering international peace and security: disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation". The second was hosted by the University of World Economy and Diplomacy, and focused on the theme "Peace and security in the new millennium: creating a world free of nuclear weapons". About 200 university students participated.

VI. Conclusions

83. During the period under review, the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme continued to focus its activities on information in the field of weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons, and on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and the arms trade.

84. Responding to the higher levels of computer literacy and technological capability among its constituents around the globe, the Disarmament Information Programme is orienting its publications towards electronic formats. The two-part *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, the Occasional Papers series and Office for Disarmament Affairs Update and other publications are available on the Office for Disarmament Affairs website. E-books are another area where new technologies are being explored to reach new constituencies with mobile information.

85. The Office for Disarmament Affairs website has expanded exponentially in content and specialized websites have been developed for major conferences, which serve as working tools for participants and vectors of public information.

86. The DPI has highlighted disarmament and arms control issues of topical interest, especially nuclear weapons and small arms and light weapons, in print, on the Internet and in film, television and radio, using its large network of information centres around the world and its outreach capacity. Its use of the celebrity appeal of the Messenger of Peace in respect of arms control issues continues to be effective.

87. The Office for Disarmament Affairs is grateful for the support it has received from Member States for the Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme and appeals for continued support for its work.

Annex

Status of the Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme as at 31 December 2013

(United States dollars)

I. Fund balance as at 1 January 2012	415 039
II. Income, 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2013	
Voluntary contributions	4 807
Interest income	5 709
Miscellaneous income	287
Subtotal	**10 803**
III. Expenditure	
1 January 2012 to 31 December 2013	34 486
Programme support costs (United Nations)	4 483
Subtotal	**38 969**
IV. Excess (shortfall) of income over expenditure	(28 166)
Prior period adjustments	(2 000)*
Subtotal	**(30 166)**
V. Fund balance as at 31 December 2013	**384 873**

* Represents the cancellation of a year 1996 pledge from Serbia.

Source: This information is based on the statement of income and expenditure and changes in reserves and fund balances for the biennium 2012-2013 ended 31 December 2013. Contributions totalling $4,807 were received during the year 2012 from Thailand ($2,000) and private donors ($2,807).